

damage done to the Tiger Reserve.

(ii) Government of India, after assessing the considerable adverse environmental impact that has been caused to certain areas of the Aravalli Range on account of inappropriate developmental processes and operations including mining, have issued a preliminary notification under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, prohibiting the carrying out of such activities except with their prior permission.

(d) & (e). Government of India have issued another preliminary notification under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 prohibiting, *inter alia*, expansion or modernisation of any existing or new mining projects, except with the prior approval of the concerned State Government /Central Government. However, for such a project to be located near an environmentally sensitive area, the approval of the Government of India will be required.

(f) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Scheme for Conservation of Forests in Mathura and Agra

3446. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme under consideration of the Government to save the Taj from storm and dust by way of conservation of forests in Mathura and Agra and growing more trees therein;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether help from any source has been sought in this connection; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b). The creation of a green belt around the Taj has been undertaken by the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department. Trees have been planted along the roads, canal banks, railway tracks and other available Government lands. About 1224 hectares of land has been covered.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Ophthalmic Hospital

3447. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a ophthalmic hospital in collaboration with Russia; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the special facilities likely to be provided therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Representation from students of Jamia Millia University

3448. SHRISYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representations from the students or members of the staff of the Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, demanding amend-

ments in the Act regarding restoration of minority character and autonomy of the university; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. A representation in this regard has been received from President, Jamia Millia Islamia Students' Union.

(b) The matter has been examined and it has been decided not to make any changes in the Jamia Millia Islamia Act, 1988.

Tropical Rain Forests

3449. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the areas of tropical rain forests in the country;

(b) whether there is any proposal for the protection of such forests;

(c) if so, details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The tropical rain forests of the country extend over about 5.12 million ha., as per the State Forest Report 1987, and are found in North Eastern States, Western Ghats (Kerala, Karnataka and Maharashtra), Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Goa.

(b) and (c). The following initiatives and measures have been taken to protect such forests:

1. The National forest Policy, 1988, lays more emphases on conservation of forests.

There are specific provisions for protection of forests from grazing, fires and encroachment.

2. Forests (Conservation) Act was enacted in 1980 to check diversion of forests land for non-forestry purposes. The Act has been made more stringent by an amendment of 1988.

3. A Centrally sponsored scheme is under implementation to help the States to develop infrastructure for protection of forest against biotic interference.

4. Guidelines have been issued to State/UT Govts. from time to time for protection of forests. Some of these guidelines are as follows:-

(i) To avoid felling of natural forests and where such felling is inevitable for restoration of crop or other silvicultural considerations, it should be restricted to an area not exceeding 10 hectares in the hills and 25 hectares in the plains.

(ii) To consider banning of felling in the hills above 1,000 metres, at least for some years.

(iii) To set apart 4% of the geographical area as protected area like wildlife sanctuaries, national parks, biosphere reserve etc.

5. Massive afforestation, Social & Farm forestry including integrated Watershed Scheme under 20 Point Programme is being carried out in all states/Uts.

(d) Does not arise.

Overhauling of Coaches

3450. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: